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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [NP](#)

SUBJECT: Media Reaction: Ambassador Clarifies U.S. Goals Prior To P.M. Deuba's May 7 Visit To Washington

11. "US Not Interested In Using Nepal As Military Base: Malinowsky"

Article, Kathmandu Post, (5/4): "Addressing a meeting organized by the Confederation of Nepalese Industries, Ambassador Malinowski clarified: "We do not want any defense base in Nepal, nor do we want to use it as a springboard to jump against another country... The U.S. interest in Nepal is to help protect democracy."

Previously a number of opinion pieces in a number of publications had speculated that the purpose of a military assessment team visit to Nepal in April was to set the stage for the introduction of U.S. troops into the country.

12. "Foreign Bogey Or Sincerity"

Editorial, Kathmandu Post, (5/6): "... U.S. Ambassador to Nepal Michael E. Malinowski was forthright in dispelling these doubts and fear as he said that America had no interest in having a defense base or using the Himalayan Kingdom as a springboard against China."

13. "PM's Visit Symbolic On Many Fronts"

OpEd, Rising Nepal (5/4). Nishchal Nath Pandey writes: "... American assistance to the Nepalese government in order to fight the menace of the Maoist insurgency will be invaluable and it is further hoped that the visit will solidify the definitiveness that is coming about in Nepal-US ties. ...At the same time, the visit is an indication that Nepal is not exclusively occupied with the counter-insurgency operations that are currently underway. We are a mature democracy and issues of our children, cruxes that are important for the upliftment of our export industries like carpet and garment and vital industries such as the tourism industry are still very much in our minds.

14. "Depressing Exports"

Editorial, Kathmandu Post (5/4). "A peep into the past four months' data reveal a 52 percent decline in garment exports to the US, which alone absorbs around 85 percent of the total export... The issue had been raised by The King and the Prime Minister when Secretary Powell visited here four months ago... Prime Minister

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Sher Bahadur Deuba during his visit to the US early next week will no doubt seek the US and British assistance in the anti-terrorist and developmental aspects. An improved security situation will attract more tourists. Beside, this would also be the right opportunity to seek US government's positive response to Nepal's demand for a free access of its garments to their market..."

MALINOWSKI